

Rethinking Our Waste



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

2012 – 2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy

On Wednesday, November 16, Regional Council approved Halton's new Solid Waste Management Strategy which will guide Regional waste management programs towards the goal of achieving a 65 per cent waste diversion rate by the year 2016. By approving this new Solid Waste Strategy, Regional Council is continuing to support Halton as a Provincial waste diversion leader.

The previous 2006-2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy guided Halton Region through several significant program changes, resulting in an increase to residential waste diversion.

This visionary plan oversaw the implementation of the GreenCart program and changed the waste collection service to weekly Blue Box and GreenCart, and every other week collection of garbage. These changes have all contributed to extending the lifespan of Halton's landfill to the year 2040.

Public Engagement

This past spring, Halton Region began a public engagement process asking residents for their feedback on eleven potential waste diversion initiatives included in the Region's Draft 2012 – 2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy. This process included four open houses and a phone and web survey to make it easy for residents to provide feedback and have their say on the proposed initiatives.

New Initiatives

Resident feedback from the public engagement process supported achieving a new waste diversion goal of 65 per cent that can be achieved with the following six initiatives from the Draft Strategy. These initiatives will be implemented between 2012 and 2016 and together will increase the lifespan of the landfill another four years.

Enhance Promotion, Education & Outreach

Increase promotion and education strategies by using social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and blogging, develop

a "waste less" campaign and multi-media tools such as videos for Halton's website; and reach diverse communities through targeted communications.

Enhance Textile Communications

Expand the promotion of existing textile diversion options for materials such as reusable clothing, to capture more of the available material.

Enhance Multi-Residential Waste Diversion

Enhance the Blue Bin recycling program and introduce GreenCart composting in multi-residential buildings to reduce apartment garbage. Other strategies include engaging volunteer multi-residential community ambassadors, and developing tenant/landlord recycling pledges.

Expand Special Waste Drop-off Days

Introduce three additional Special Waste Drop-off Days in areas not conveniently accessible to a current depot such as the Halton Waste Management Site or a future Community Recycling Centre. Additional drop off events will make it more convenient for residents to drop off household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

Expand Blue Box Materials & Enhance Blue Box Capacity

Expand the list of acceptable Blue Box materials to include additional items.

Decrease Garbage Bag Limit & Introduce Garbage Bag Tags

Propose a decrease in the garbage limit from six to three bags/cans of garbage every other week. This means that if you wanted to place more than three bags/cans of garbage at the curb, you would need to purchase "bag tags" which typically cost \$1 to \$2 in other municipalities with similar programs. Studies indicate that over 80 per cent of Halton residents already place three or less bags/cans of garbage out on their collection day.

Want to Learn More?

To learn more about the new initiatives included in the Council approved 2012 to 2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy visit www.halton.ca/wastestrategy.

plan reduce 65% responsible environment leader 2044

strategy diversion cost outreach recycle GreenCart

apartments engage reuse

textiles BlueBox

Stay Connected!

Halton residents have long been enthusiastic participants in 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) programs and eager to learn about related environmental information. With the introduction of two new social media tools, residents now have another way to learn about Halton's waste diversion programs and connect with staff.



We've started a blog at www.haltonrecycles.ca.



On our blog we're discussing current waste diversion trends, showcasing the Halton community in action, and profiling waste diversion champions of all ages. Watch for how-to videos, event footage and guest bloggers in the coming months.

You can also follow us on Twitter [@HaltonRecycles](https://twitter.com/HaltonRecycles).



We're tweeting regularly, providing updates and reminders about waste collection, suggesting hints and tips on acceptable materials, presenting links to interesting news items and stories, and notifying you about potential collection delays.

We want to hear from you!

Feel free to share your thoughts, photos and bits of interesting environmental information. We're posting regularly on both sites, so be sure to visit us often.

Halton Region Meeting Schedule

Dec. 1, 11:00 a.m. Administration & Finance Cte
Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. Budget Review
Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m. Regional Council
Dec. 26 - 30 Offices closed for Holidays
 Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.

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